

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A linear motor device, comprising:
 - an inner yoke ~~(30)~~;
 - an outer yoke ~~(4)~~ located outside said inner yoke ~~(30)~~;
 - a coil-wound body ~~(8)~~ and a movable magnet portion ~~(32)~~ for driving a piston ~~(43)~~ reciprocating in a cylinder ~~(42)~~, both located between said inner yoke ~~(30)~~ and said outer yoke ~~(4)~~;
 - first and second clamping members ~~(2, 3)~~ for clamping said outer yoke ~~(4)~~; and
 - a spacer ~~(5)~~ for coupling said first and second clamping members ~~(2, 3)~~ at a given spacing,
 - said first clamping member ~~(2)~~ being provided with a support portion ~~(46)~~ supporting a spring ~~(46)~~ for pushing said piston ~~(43)~~, and
 - said second clamping member ~~(3)~~ being fixed directly or indirectly to said cylinder ~~(42)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The linear motor device according to claim 1, wherein
 - said spacer ~~(5)~~ has axial end faces and smaller-diameter portions ~~(9a, 9b)~~ protruding from said axial end faces at both ends, and
 - said first and second clamping members ~~(2, 3)~~ have first and second receiving portions ~~(6a, 6b)~~ having concave portions ~~(10a-10d)~~ for receiving the smaller-diameter portions ~~(9a, 9b)~~ of said spacer ~~(5)~~ and support surfaces for supporting said axial end faces of said spacer ~~(5)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The linear motor device according to claim 1, wherein
 - said outer yoke ~~(4)~~ is made of a plurality of outer yoke blocks ~~(4a, 4b)~~ arranged in a circumferential direction of said first and second clamping members ~~(2, 3)~~, the outer yoke blocks being separated in a longitudinal direction of said spacer ~~(5)~~, and
 - said outer yoke blocks ~~(4a, 4b)~~ are bonded to said first and second clamping members ~~(2, 3)~~ with welded portions interposed therebetween.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a linear motor device, comprising the steps of:

fixing a first outer yoke block (4a) and a second outer yoke block (4b) to a first clamping member (2) and a second clamping member (3), respectively, by ultrasonic welding;

while said first and second outer yoke blocks (4a, 4b) are fixed to said first and second clamping members (2, 3), coupling said first and second clamping members (2, 3) together by ultrasonic welding with a spacer (5) interposed therebetween,;

fixing said first and second outer yoke blocks (4a, 4b) to each other.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a linear motor device according to claim 4, wherein said first and second clamping members (2, 3) are coupled together with a gap provided between said first and second outer yoke blocks (4a, 4b).

6. (Original) A linear compressor comprising the linear motor device recited in claim 1.

7. (Currently Amended) A linear compressor, comprising:
a cylinder (42) provided in a casing (41);
a piston (43) reciprocating in said cylinder (42);
a linear motor device (4) provided in an outer periphery of said cylinder (42) to drive said piston (43); and

a spring (46) for pushing said piston (43),
said linear motor device (4) having an inner yoke (30), an outer yoke (4) located outside said inner yoke (30), a coil-wound body (8) and a movable magnet portion (32) located between said inner yoke (30) and said outer yoke (4), first and second clamping members (2, 3) for clamping said outer yoke (4), a spacer (5) for coupling said first and second clamping members (2, 3) at a given spacing, and a support portion (16) for

supporting said spring (46),

said first clamping member (2) being provided with said support portion (16), and
said second clamping member (3) being mounted to said cylinder (42).

8. (Currently Amended) A Stirling engine, comprising:

a cylinder (22) provided in a casing (21);

a piston (23) and a displacer (24) reciprocating in said cylinder (22);

a linear motor device (1) provided in an outer periphery of said cylinder (22) for
allowing said piston (23) to reciprocate in said cylinder (22); and

a spring (34) for pushing the displacer (24),

said linear motor device (1) having an inner yoke (30), an outer yoke (4) located
outside said inner yoke (30), a coil-wound body (8) and a movable magnet portion (32)
located between said inner yoke (30) and said outer yoke (4), first and second clamping
members (2, 3) for clamping said outer yoke (4), a spacer (5) for coupling said first and
second clamping members (2, 3) at a given spacing, and a support portion (16) for
supporting said spring (34),

said first clamping member (2) being provided with said support portion (16), and
said second clamping member (3) being mounted to said cylinder (22).